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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my disappointment over the settlement proposed by the DOJ in US v. Microsoft. As a software engineer, I am well aware of the strangle-hold Microsoft holds over the industry, and the stifling effect it has on innovation.

In 1994-1995 when Netscape and Mosaic were the only browsers around, Microsoft started whispering about entering the browser market. I was in college at the time (University of Pennsylvania) and had seriously considered entering the browser market with several of my peers. As soon as rumors of Microsoft surfaced, those plans were stopped dead in their tracks. Netscape's 100% market share didn't discourage us at all. Microsoft's track record of stomping out rivals -- dare say I entire markets -- using ill-gotten gains is what sent our creative energies elsewhere. The ensuing 4-5 years were full of "browser-war" stories, but the result was a foregone conclusion before Microsoft had released a single product.

The current software landscape is rather bleak. When the bully gets to usurp any and all innovative ideas, people eventually stop being creative. Motivation is tough to come by when you know that the spoils of your labor will eventually be in the war-chest of said bully.

Since the settlement does nothing to fundamentally change this landscape, I can not support it. I don't feel that the DOJ has represented the public's best interests.... they certainly have not done so with mine.

-Blake Mills